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man progressiveness, and his longings after a higher and better state of the world than that which it now exhibits, are entirely delightful to us, and induce us to hope for some future production from his pen, in which we shall find more matter for admiration and less room for complaint.

ART. V.—*Some Account of the Life, Writings, and Speeches of William Pinkney.* By HENRY WHEATON. New York. G. & C. Carvill. 8vo. pp. 616.

MR WHEATON'S book had been long enough before the public to have required, perhaps, a notice in our last number. We were the less anxious about the delay, however, as its interest is not of a transitory sort, but allied with a great and abiding name. That of Pinkney must attract a curiosity, as permanent as the tradition of his eloquence, and as the juridical records in which it so often and conspicuously recurs.

Of a life so engrossed by strenuous intellectual labor, all students especially, in every department of knowledge, will be desirous to know something. They will be curious to learn, whether these extensive conquests in the domain of professional learning were accomplished by irregular and abrupt incursions, or by methodical and disciplined approaches; what influence they cast on his temper and habits; and innumerable minute particulars, which are interesting only from their connexion with genius. Many a doubting aspirer will seek, in the life of such a man, wherewithal to solve the question so often debated betwixt ease and glory, how far these trophies of learned fame are worth the cost of their acquisition. Readers of this description, and all, indeed, who love to observe conspicuous genius nearly and familiarly, complain that the present volume is by no means so abundant in those characteristic touches, from which we love to combine for ourselves the portrait of genius, as might have been expected from the celebrity of its subject, and his recent death. The life of the studious and the contemplative seldom furnishes, it is true, that variety of interest which arises out of one of action and business. But Mr Pinkney, they observed, was not merely a closet man. He was conspicuous, and the subject of

some obloquy, on the political theatre ; he was long engaged in negotiations full of expectation and interest, which brought him into contact with some of the most distinguished men of the age ; he travelled in famous and classical countries ; and the results, too, of these advantages, and of his untiring application, were not read silently in books, but were heard in courts of justice, and in senates, where they may be supposed to have left vivid and various impressions on the auditors. Many anecdotes, they think, illustrative of the character formed, and of opinions gathered, during this busy course of action, must be floating among his contemporaries, which, had they been more industriously sought by his biographer, would have relieved the dry and documentary air of his book.

All this is very specious, but we are not sure that it is entirely just. The circumstance, that Mr Pinkney resided so long abroad, removed him from among his contemporaries at home ; and his habits of life and thought were such, when in this country, as to bring him scarcely more under their close observation. But, besides this, who would think to measure the interest of a biography, by the importance of the part, which has been played by its hero ? A Reynolds in this respect surpasses a Hume. Even where the theatre is the same, the parts equally serious and important, and the personages inseparably connected in the eyes of mankind, a Pitt shall leave scarce any traces of himself, but those which are engraved by the pen of history, while a Napoleon shall bequeath us the most ample and interesting of all the memoirs of men. Some accident of circumstance, but more often of character, determines this point beyond the control of the most gifted biographer. The title of Mr Wheaton's work is very unpretending. The work itself presents us, however, with some interesting fragments of the correspondence, writings, and speeches of a very remarkable man ; and it is as wise, perhaps, to thank him for having collected and preserved what might otherwise have perished, as to amuse ourselves with disquisitions on what he might have done. We shall proceed therefore, from our author's volume and from a few inconsiderable gleanings of our own, to throw together some brief notices of the character of this celebrated jurist, in connexion with a hasty sketch of the principal events of his life.

William Pinkney was born at Annapolis, in Maryland, on the 17th of March, 1764. His father, whom he always spoke of as a man of firm temper, and of a strong and original cast of

mind, was an Englishman by birth, and took the part of the parent country during the revolution. The boyish ardor, or wilfulness, of young Pinkney was pleased with the adoption of opposite sentiments; and one of the freaks of his patriotism was to escape from the vigilance of his parent, and mount night guard with the soldiers at the fort in Annapolis. He retained, to the end of his life, a strong partiality for his native town, and took a pleasure in pointing out to his intimates, especially the young, the scenes of his childish toils and sports. His early education was imperfect; but this was less owing to the narrow circumstances of his father, who spared no pains for his son, than to the disturbed state of the times. His private teacher, Brathand, left the country on this latter account; and the affection, which his pupil always continued to entertain for him, was warmly reciprocated by the preceptor, who, after the lapse of several years, expressed the greatest pleasure at meeting in England an acquaintance of Pinkney's, and was eager in his inquiries about him; 'one of my greatest regrets,' said he, 'in leaving America, was that I had to part from my promising pupil.'

They, who remember him at this period of life, describe him as already animated by that impatience of a superior, which characterized him at a later day, and which was, in some sort, both the strength and the weakness of his character. This temper was not confined to the rivalries of study, but extended to the rougher competitions of boyhood. One anecdote of the former he used to relate of himself, as a *ruse* which might be pardoned in a youth. There was a debating club in the town, of which Pinkney was a member. A question had been assigned for a certain evening, when all the polite company of the place was expected to attend; and our orator repaired early one morning to a secluded place in the vicinity, to prepare himself in solitude, against the coming occasion. His antagonist in the debate, who was also his chief competitor in the club, was there, however, before him; and our young aspirer took the benefit of some friendly skreen to overhear his declamation unobserved. 'The result,' said he, 'was brilliant. In the evening my antagonist's speech, which was well enough seasoned with rhetoric, was received with acclamation. But when I came to make my *extempore* reply, which I had very earnestly prepared during the day, I was at home, as you may guess, on every point. The night was mine, and thenceforth I was king of the club.'

It was a like display of rare talents in another society of the

same kind, which determined him to seek his fortune at the bar ; and, like Chancellor King, and the late Master of the Rolls in England, he was indebted to the notice and friendship of discerning genius, for this fortunate change in his views. At the time we speak of, he was a student of physic under Doctor Goodwin, then an extensive practitioner in Baltimore, and was one of a small debating society of students of medicine, at one of whose meetings the late Judge Chase of Maryland happened to be present. Struck with the genius, the musical voice, and the energetic manner of Pinkney, as yet a mere lad, and quite unknown to him, he earnestly advised him to the study of law, inviting him to Annapolis, and offering him the free use of his library, and whatever other aid he could afford him. Under this not least distinguished of the eminent lawyers who have been the boast of Maryland, Pinkney was deeply imbued with 'the learning of the realty,' and in special pleading, that logic of the law, of which he afterwards became a master ; and in 1786 he removed to Harford county, in his native state, to commence there the practice of his profession.

From this time he rose rapidly in public confidence and honors. He was chosen in 1788 a delegate from Harford to the state convention, which ratified the constitution of the United States ; and, in the October of the same year, a member of the house of delegates. In 1790 he was elected to Congress ; a station, which for professional reasons he declined ; and he was several years a member of the executive council of Maryland. He was afterwards a delegate from Anne Arundel county, having removed to Annapolis, the county town, in 1792. He had married in 1789, the sister of Commodore Rodgers, a lady who still survives him. His professional assiduity continued, meantime, unabated ; and while he held a distinguished rank in the councils of his native state, he rose gradually to the head of its bar. In his dress and personal habits, at this time, he was very wide of that niceness and minute precision, which, on his return from Europe, distinguished him, perhaps, to affectation. He indulged freely in the use of the 'sovereign weed,' and cultivated his popularity by mingling carelessly with his rustic constituents. At a later day he was very far from admitting society on the same easy terms, and punctiliously affected all the outward observances, which he conceived to belong to the manners of a gentleman, and to denote a perfect knowledge of high breeding.

In 1796 he received a flattering evidence of the public sentiment in his favor, in an unsolicited appointment by Washington, as one of the commissioners for the United States, under the seventh article of Jay's Treaty with Great Britain. He accepted this appointment, but not without reluctance, and embarked for London with his family, where he arrived in July of the same year. In the questions, which arose in the adjustment of the claims under this article of the treaty, 'his opinions,' says his biographer, 'were finished models of judicial eloquence, uniting powerful and comprehensive argument with a copious, pure, and energetic diction.' They are collected in the second part of Mr Wheaton's work. He was engaged at the same time, in adjusting the claim of the state of Maryland, to certain stock in the Bank of England, of which he succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement.

Of his observations on this new theatre, and at a period, too, of great political interest, we find little in the fragments of correspondence collected in the present volume. The extent and perfection of the arts of life, the active industry and splendid wealth, which he found in England, produced on him the usual impression. 'I have seen much,' he says, 'that deserves the attention of him, who would be wise or happy.' He was present at the debate in the House of Commons on the rejection of Bonaparte's overtures for peace in 1800, and often mentioned Mr Pitt's speech on that occasion, as the most powerful and eloquent he had ever heard. Of that energetic politician he always spoke as the greatest man he had ever seen, while Fox, he seemed to think, was much overrated. But he doubted the power of the allies to force the ancient dynasty on France; an event, which, though eventually accomplished, was postponed so long, and with such important effects on the condition of Europe, as to justify his doubt, and to beget suspicion of the policy of the memorable statesman, who led the combined force of Europe to the attempt. His strong inclination to his professional pursuits, rendered Mr Pinkney very impatient of the delays of the commission, and anxious to return home; but his wishes in this respect were not gratified till August 1804, when he arrived in America, improved, indeed, in knowledge, but embarrassed in circumstances, and with the 'dreary prospect,' to use his own words, 'of commencing the world at forty.' Shortly after his return, he removed to Baltimore, and attended, for the first time, the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington. In

1805 he was appointed attorney general of Maryland, and prosecuted, for a time, the labors of the bar, with unwearyed assiduity, till the growing differences of this country with Great Britain, on the subject of neutral trade, brought him again on the theatre of diplomacy. In April, 1806, he was appointed, by Mr Jefferson, Minister Extraordinary to the court of St James, to arrange, if possible, in conjunction with Mr Monroe, the resident minister there, the many important questions then at issue between the two cabinets, or, we should rather say, the two countries, as the interest, which they excited on both sides of the water, was diffused and violent in the highest degree.

The progress, and unfriendly issue of this memorable negotiation, are familiar to most of our readers. That Mr Pinkney shared, in its full extent, the solicitude which was felt in this country, is discernible in the tone of his correspondence, and might be inferred from the perplexing circumstances, in which both the government of the United States, and its agents in France and England, were placed by the conflicting usurpations of these two powers. At this day, when we perceive that a war under such a conjuncture was inevitable, and have gathered from it so many fortunate results to public rights and national reputation, it is perhaps to be regretted that our disputes were not sooner referred to the arbitrement of arms. Many circumstances however, some of which it is not very pleasant to recall, led our maritime enemy into mistakes, both as to the spirit and strength of this country, and no doubt deferred the step which we took in the end. Had it not been for these circumstances, the instructions to our ministers at St James's would have been less conciliatory, for taking the tone of which, in his communications with that cabinet, Mr Pinkney has been sometimes accused of want of firmness and decision. To this subject Mr Madison alludes, in a passage of their correspondence quoted in the work; from which it may be gathered, also, that neither was insensible to the dissatisfaction, which was felt at some parts of Mr Pinkney's intercourse with the British government. Meanwhile our niggard frugality towards our foreign embassies, was adding pecuniary embarrassment to the other cares of his weary and responsible post. His youthful earnings were dissipated, while 'the prime of his life was passing away in barren toil and anxiety.' It is thus that he writes to Mr Madison; and he adds, in another letter, 'the compensation (as it is oddly called), allotted by the government to the maintenance of its representatives

abroad, is a pittance which no economy, however rigid, or even mean, can render adequate.' Under these circumstances he solicited his recall; and took his audience of leave at Carlton House, in February, 1811, expressing the regret, which he probably felt with some acuteness, that his efforts to effect a good understanding between the two countries, had proved so unavailing. He arrived at Annapolis the following June, and war was declared a year afterwards.

From this period commences the most brilliant part of Mr Pinkney's career, and that which was most akin to his own taste, and to his particular endowments of mind. Having availed himself, with singular diligence, of the opportunity which his residence in England afforded him, to become familiar with the forms and practice of its courts, and having consecrated to his favorite study all the leisure, which he could steal from less congenial employments, he returned to our courts fraught with all the resources which, experience, reflection, and intimate converse with the most eminent lawyers and civilians of the time, may be supposed to have added to a vigorous and fertile genius. In the progress of our maritime war, many interesting questions of public law gave scope to his learning and ability; and the aid that he contributed to the erection of the system of Prize Law, which, in the absence of precedent, the Supreme Court was under the necessity of building up, is prominent in the judicial records of the times. In the December succeeding his return, he was appointed, by Mr Madison, Attorney General of the United States, and held the post till January, 1814, when, a bill having been introduced into the House of Representatives, requiring the residence of that officer at the seat of government, he resigned his office as incompatible, under such a restriction, with his other engagements. He had previously been chosen to the Senate of Maryland, and in 1815 he was elected from Baltimore, as its Representative in Congress. During our short but harassing war with Great Britain, he commanded a battalion of militia riflemen, and was severely wounded at the affair of Bladensburg.

In March, 1816, he was once more called to a diplomatic station, being appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia, and charged also with a special mission to Naples, at which city he landed in July, 1816. The business of this mission was completely evaded by the artifices of the Neapolitan court, who hastened his departure by pretences, which they had no diffi-

culty to lay aside when he was fairly out of Naples. He proceeded through Rome, and the other principal Italian cities, to Vienna. Some difficulty had arisen at this time with the emperor of Russia, from the arrest of Kosloff, the Russian consul general in this country, in consequence of which Mr Harris, our Chargé d'Affaires at St Petersburg, had been forbidden to appear at court ; and Mr Pinkney doubted the propriety, under such circumstances, of presenting himself in Russia as the American minister. But learning at Vienna, that this affair had been arranged, he proceeded, by a long and comfortless winter journey, through Poland to St Petersburg. He remained there about two years, and returned finally to the United States in 1818. In 1820 he was elected a senator in Congress from Maryland, in which post he delivered his celebrated speech on the Missouri Question, and took part in the preliminary discussions on the Bankrupt Bill. Neither had years nor travel diminished the ardor of his professional pursuits. On the contrary, he continued them, if possible, with still greater eagerness, endeavoring, he said, 'to compensate for the little of life that was left him, by economizing it more.' To this feeling his anxiety to make provision for his family contributed, as much as his unquenchable love of reputation. But death surprised the champion in his vigor.

It is well known that he spared no toil in the study and management of his causes. On the seventeenth of February, 1822, he was attacked by a severe indisposition, in consequence of an effort of this sort. He had over exerted himself in the investigation and arguing of a case in the Supreme Court, in which he felt peculiar interest.

'He mentioned to a friend that he had sat up very late in the night on which he was taken ill, to read the *Pirates*, which was then just published, and made many remarks respecting it, drawing comparisons between the two heroines, and criticising the narrative and style with his usual confident and decided tone, and in a way which showed that his imagination had been a good deal excited by the perusal. From this period till his death he was a considerable part of the time in a state of delirium. But in his lucid intervals, his mind reverted to his favorite studies and pursuits, on which, whenever the temporary suspension of his bodily sufferings enabled him, he conversed with great freedom and animation. He seems, however, to have anticipated that his illness must have a fatal termination, and to have awaited the

event with patient fortitude. After a course of the most acute suffering he breathed his last on the night of the twentyfifth of February.' pp. 171-172.

Thus terminated the life of William Pinkney, a life so shared between public business and studious labor, that the hasty sketch which we have given, comprises nearly all its prominent incidents.

At his death he had not quite completed his fiftyeighth year, an age at which men begin to regard the termination of life, as an object not very remote. But his person was yet robust, his complexion florid, and his general appearance such, aided as it was by the studied carefulness of his toilet, as to give a strong impression of vigorous health and tenaciousness of life. The force of his faculties too, which were not only unimpaired, but seemed only then to have attained full ripeness; the brilliancy of a career in which, though so long a victor, he was every day winning fresh laurels by fresh exertions; the very keenness of his relish for these gathered fruits of his fame, and for the charms of a life eminently successful; all these, as they appeared to promise a long postponement of the common fate, rendered it more affecting to the imagination, when it thus suddenly arrived. Apparently, however, he did not himself regard the seeds of his fate as so far from their developement. His sanguine temperament, and plethoric habit of body, led him to apprehend a sudden decay of life, or, at least, of his faculties; and he has been heard to speak of the fate of the celebrated Luther Martin in this particular, as not unlikely to be his own. He was spared, however, this worst of the maladies of age. He did not linger through those melancholy displays of imbecility, which are caused by the receding tide of life, but seemed to rush to the termination of his course, as the busy torrent dashes onward to the sea.

His death produced, both in the metropolis and through the country, a deep and remarkable sensation. We call it remarkable, because it is seldom that mere professional renown, disconnected as it is from popular passion, obtains for itself, in so great a degree, this last and melancholy reward of genius. Nor can we impute it, certainly, even in the case of the remarkable individual in question, though he had rendered distinguished services at the bar, in the senate, and in diplomacy, to any fear that the business of either would suffer a pause from his death. The theatre of *busy* life never wants actors, and few are they, who may flatter themselves, that their exit will produce either

disorder or vacancy in the scene. These losses of society, however grief or flattery may declaim on such occasions, are for the most part little felt, or speedily repaired. Other talents, till then crowded from the stage, or unkindled by reward, press forward in the ever eager competition; and we daily see the tomb close on virtue and genius, with as little perceptible effect on the great social machine, as on the sun and the breeze, which are feigned in the elegy of poets to darken, and sigh over their decay. It is a very few master spirits, that have the fortune to weave the destinies of their race with their own, and to derange or suspend the business of life by their fall. We must refer, then, to a more poetical source, our emotion on the death of one of these intellectual heroes. Perhaps the harsh contrasts, always suggested by death, are heightened by our conception of the mental power and activity which belong to genius. We contemplate with pain the extinction of this subtle spirit, the defeat of its eager aspirations, its insensibility to its slow won honors, this sudden and wasteful dissipation of the gathered treasures of thought and knowledge. There was something astounding in the hasty close of a career characterized, like Mr Pinkney's, by such untiring energy to the last, and animated by the consenting applauses of partisans and competitors. He seemed to be cut off *in medio spatio*, while men yet looked for other triumphs, and ere he had reached, in his fervid course, the regular and appointed goal.

Few men ever earned these 'garlands of the tomb,' by a more inflexible pursuit of them through a whole life. In him the zeal of reputation was not one of many impulses obeyed by turns, and exciting him at intervals to unusual exertions. It was, as we believe it almost always has been in those who have far outgone their fellows, ever present and predominant, urging him, even more than that appetite of knowledge which grows by what it feeds on, to the perpetual accumulation of his intellectual stores. His emulation was infinite. 'I never heard him allow,' said a friend of his, 'that any man was his superior in anything; in field sports, in music, in drawing; especially in oratory, on which his great ambition rested.' As this eager ambition thrust him early into the career of action, so it never seemed in any degree abated by success. It was the *pabulum* of his life; and, as if to verify a notion of medicine, the stimulant itself at length brought the decay of the spirit, which it had fed and vivified; for he sickened in the act of emulous exertion.

In this respect, his whole life is a lesson to those ambitious spirits, that, like him, are consumed with the 'fever of renown,' and that would learn by what efforts continually repeated, by what earnest and fervent toil, the abrupt summits of fame, and more emphatically of legal fame, are overcome.

While in England, and indeed during all his residence abroad, Mr Pinkney applied himself indefatigably to law studies. He seems to have appreciated justly his own mind, and, though diverted from the bar for a time by diplomacy and politics, to have inclined to it constantly, as to the proper theatre of his particular abilities. Of his acquisitions in the vast and various field of professional learning, it would be idle in us to speak. But it will not be uninteresting to mention, that the wealth of his mind was never so unostentatiously displayed, as in those unpremeditated disquisitions, which, as *amicus curiæ*, or in the progress of a cause, he was frequently called on to make. It was remarkable to observe at such times, how his knowledge seemed to have 'passed out of his memory into his judgment;' in what abundance he heaped his analogies before you; and with what a precise logic he made them converge on his point.

With all these previous accumulations of knowledge, he approached every new cause with the ardor of one, who had yet his reputation to earn. 'He was never satisfied,' says his biographer, 'with exploring its facts, and all the technical learning which it involved.' Nor was he inattentive to its rhetorical embellishments, noting, even in the fictitious works with which he amused his leisure, or, to speak more justly, recreated his mind for new efforts, any allusion or image that could be turned to account. Towards the end of his life, he devoted himself almost wholly to intellectual exertion of some kind. 'Thought,' to borrow the phrase of one who knew him well, 'appeared to be the very breath of his mind.' Study was necessary to his spirit, and so far from laborious, that when not engaged in it, or in some active corporeal exercise, he evinced very restless and uneasy feelings. On journeys, he read constantly in his carriage, and even studied his causes there. A life thus wholly 'dedicate to closeness, and the bettering of his mind,' did not require that methodical distribution, which inferior minds resort to, as a substitute for the power of constant application; nor did his various engagements permit it. His hours of study varied with his circumstances; but they increased progressively with his age. He slept little, and always with a light in his chamber;

and might be heard stirring there at the earliest dawn, often retiring to bed again after several hours' reading. He ate rapidly, drank wine freely at his meals, but never sat long at table, except on special occasions; and could retire at all times to his study with a mind disposed to severe labor.

His general attainments were very considerable, and he was ambitious of showing, that he had wandered wide of the severe limits of technical learning. He knew well the Latin classics, and had been familiar with the Greek; but the latter we are disposed to think, he neglected in later life. Of French literature his knowledge was extensive. He was especially well versed in ancient and modern history, and in the belles lettres generally. Out of the natural sciences, in which it is believed his attainments were inconsiderable, he seemed to have read all the standard works of our language; and most of this miscellaneous learning he acquired abroad. Of his literary predilections we recollect only a few. Johnson, if he had a preference, was his favorite prose writer, chiefly, perhaps, because he thought his elaborate and elevated style a proper model for an orator; and Shakspeare, Pope, and Milton were his chosen poets. In the copy of the last in the possession of his family, all the remarkable passages are underlined; and he quoted them with readiness from memory. Comus he distinguished as the best sustained of English poems, in the elegant and 'curious felicity' of its diction, and was fond of reciting aloud the passages, which he thought most remarkable for harmony or sonorousness. He piqued himself on knowing critically the elegancies of his own tongue; and, though he probably overrated his taste, his knowledge on this point was minute. His table was generally furnished with half a dozen works on prosody, and as many dictionaries; and he had a fancy for coining new words, or reviving obsolete ones, and then defending them by analogy, or by the authority of the classics. Of his *euphuism*, for so we may call it, which he sometimes displayed at the bar, to the annoyance of his less *literate* brethren, he has left a somewhat diverting record. It is a copy of a bulky dictionary published some years ago in this country, all grievously underscored, and full of marginal remarks, petitions, and interrogatories addressed to the author, written with playful spleen, and craving to know the reason of the multifarious impurities which he had cast into 'the well of English undefiled.'

He possessed, in an eminent degree, that robustness of con-

stitution, which is hardly less necessary in study, than Napoleon deemed it in war. On this point he displayed some vanity, and was very solicitous of personal nicety, on the score both of health and appearance. His recreations were mostly of the same robust sort; he was attached to field sports, and excelled in them; and, though he seemed almost indefatigable, generally returned from his sporting excursions overcome with fatigue. But as he was of a sanguine melancholy temperament, he was apt to fancy himself ill. At such times he diverted himself with games of skill, in which he was a proficient, such as chess, draughts, and the like. He was once quite a capital billiard player, and seldom met his equal in whist. In England he amused himself very much with his children, mixing occasionally in their most childish sports. He used there to draw, for one of his sons, almost every night, and, what perhaps few persons know, he handled the pencil like a master. He assisted, moreover, in teaching one of his daughters music, to which task he brought a good deal of skill, and an admirable ear. He was fond of the best novels, and, by way of mental dissipation, sometimes liked to hear the worst; and when exhausted in mind, or depressed in spirits, would listen to any trash, romances from the Minerva press, French novels, and fairy tales. We have frequently seen him at the theatre, sitting out the worst plays, so bad, indeed, that he could be entertained only by their absurdity; and next day he would amuse himself with writing a *critique* on the performance. The company of young persons, especially those of talent, was very attractive to him; and when occasion presented itself, he was pleased to do them any service. When they were assembled at his house, he would saunter from his study to the adjoining parlor, mingle in the topic or the jest of the moment, and then return. This he would repeat a dozen times in an evening.

The reader perhaps may be pleased to compare these recollections of his private pursuits and habits, with those from another source. The following passage is from a letter written by a friend of his biographer, who was a good deal in his society at St Petersburg.

‘I arrived in St Petersburg in the month of June, 1817. I carried a letter of introduction to Mr Pinkney from our friend, Mr Justice Story. Mr P. received me at once with the greatest kindness and hospitality. He told me almost the first time I saw him, that he should not make a single dinner for me, or receive me with ceremony; but if I would consider myself a member of

his family, and take a seat at his table constantly, when not otherwise engaged, he should be gratified. As I soon found he was in earnest, I accepted his offer almost to its full extent. I passed about two months in the city, lodging at the same hotel with him, and domesticated with his family. I saw him every day, and at almost every meal; and the recollections I have of the pleasure enjoyed in his society, are amongst those I shall longest retain.

‘Of his past life he did not speak much. I inferred, however, that he had always been a hard student, and considered himself a laborious and thorough scholar in those branches of human knowledge to which he had more particularly devoted himself. I remember that he once said to me, that he considered the late Mr Chief Justice Parsons and himself the only men in America who had thoroughly studied and understood Coke Littleton. He appeared to estimate the legal acquirements of our professional men as of little extent, generally speaking, and to think he gave himself but little credit in thinking that he had learnt more law than any other man in the country.

‘He kept himself very much in private, living so (as he said) from motives of economy. He was in lodgings at the Hotel de l’Europe, and saw no company ceremoniously—that is, he gave no dinners, &c. He had made it known to the diplomatic circle there when he first arrived, that he should live in that style, and therefore could not reciprocate their civilities. They, however, visited him a good deal, and he accepted their invitations frequently. I understood from various quarters, and inferred from what I saw, that he stood very particularly well with the Emperor, his family, and principal ministers. His personal habits were very peculiar. His neatness, and attention to the fashionable costume of the day, were carried to an extreme, which exposed him while at home to the charge of foppery and affectation. But it should be remembered how large a portion of his life he had spent abroad, and in the highest circles of European society. Though he undoubtedly piqued himself upon being a finished and elegant gentleman, yet his manners and habits of dress were, as it always seemed to me, acquired in Europe; and so far from being remarkable there, they were in exact accordance with the common and established usages of men of his rank and station. All who have been at any of the European courts know that their statesmen and ministers consider it a necessary part of their character to pay great attention to the elegancies and refinements of life, and after a day passed in the laborious discharge of their duties, will spend their evenings in society, and contribute quite their share of pleasant trifling. It is their *manière d’être*.

‘During the summer that I passed with Mr Pinkney, his personal habits were very regular. He breakfasted late and heartily. Then he retired to his study, and we saw him no more until dinner at six o’clock. The evening he passed with his family, or in visiting. He took very little exercise, eat and drank freely, and I thought suffered occasionally from the usual effects of a plethoric habit, with much indulgence as to food, and no attention to exercise. Undoubtedly his extreme attention to personal cleanliness contributed much to preserve his health. His family saw little company at home or abroad; he appeared to be extremely fond of them, and satisfied with passing his evenings in their society.’ pp. 157,—158.

It might be inferred from his fondness for history, that he was a curious traveller, especially in the classical region of Italy. He speaks, in a conversation quoted by Mr Wheaton, of his desire ‘to visit that classic land, and of the feelings with which he should set foot on its shores.’ His enthusiasm, however, was very moderate. He was not an inquisitive traveller; he staid but eight days in Rome, and exhibited, we are told, nothing more than a decorous curiosity. He had an interview with the Pope, and was treated by him with great distinction. He was not much addicted to discourse on the character of the countries he passed through, or make comparisons between them, thinking, perhaps, as those who see the most are often apt to think, that their essential differences are small. Of company he saw much more, both in England and Russia, than in his own country, perhaps from the nature of his station at their courts, and the weight of his avocations at home; but more probably from a preference of foreign society, acquired by long residence in it. He has sketched some of the members of the ruling family of Russia, in the following letter to his daughter, Mrs Williams.

‘The Empress Mother is still a charming woman, and when young must have been extremely handsome. She may be said *to do the honors* of this splendid court, and it is fit that she should. Her manners are infinitely pleasing, at the same time that they are lofty; and she is a perfect mistress of the arts of conversation. She is, moreover, exemplary in all the relations of life, and is beloved for her goodness by all classes.

‘Of the reigning Empress it is impossible to speak in adequate terms of praise. It is necessary to see her to be able to comprehend how wonderfully interesting she is. It is no exaggeration to say, that with a slight abatement for the effects of time and severe affliction (produced by the loss of her children), she

combines every charm that contributes to female loveliness, with all the qualities that peculiarly become her exalted station. Her figure, although thin, is exquisitely fine. Her countenance is a subduing picture of feeling and intelligence. Her voice is of that soft and happy tone that goes directly to the heart, and awakens every sentiment which a virtuous woman can be ambitious to excite. Her manner cannot be described or imagined. It is graceful, unaffectedly gentle, winning, and at the same time truly dignified. Her conversation is suited to this noble exterior. Adapted with nice discrimination to those to whom it is addressed, unostentatious and easy, sensible and kind, it captivates invariably the wise and good, and (what is yet more difficult) satisfies the frivolous without the slightest approach to frivolity. If universal report may be credited, there is no virtue for which this incomparable woman is not distinguished; and I have reason to be confident from all that I have observed and heard, that her understanding (naturally of the highest order) has been embellished and informed to an uncommon degree by judicious, and regular, and various study. It is not, therefore, surprising that she is alike adored by the inhabitant of the palace and the cottage, and that every Russian looks up to her as to a superior being. She is, indeed, a superior being, and would be adored, although she were not surrounded by imperial pomp and power.' pp. 155, 156.

The ensuing sketch of Mr Pinkney's person is, with some other particulars, from the hand of a gentleman, who, during a few years preceding his death, was on a footing of intimacy with him.

'In frame Mr Pinkney was robust, square shouldered, and firm set. His complexion was clear and florid, disclosing the smaller veins under the skin. His face full, his eye of a dead blue, variable in its expression, and quickly lighted up by excitement. His nose was small, turning a little upward; the eyebrow thinly clothed, and forming a marked protuberance, which was very conspicuous in his profile. His forehead was low and retreating; his lips thin, the corners of his mouth pointing downward a very little; his chin small. His head was oval, thinly covered with short brown hair of a silky texture; it was flattened on each side, and showed his ears in high relief; in that, and in some other respects, however different the *tout ensemble*, closely resembling the head of La Fayette. Although the habitual expression of his face was mirthful, it was deeply furrowed with the lines of thought. Under his eyes hung heavy circles, and his cheeks were defined by strong boundaries passing from

each nostril. These two were the predominant characteristics of his countenance.

‘His carriage was more than erect ; it might be called perpendicular. His action and gesture, emphatic at all times, seemed to bear defiance as if by habit, and to denote a temperament almost incapable of fatigue. He was always on his feet, even in his study, and his walk was firm and elastic. Sickness scarcely deprived him of this quality. His ardor was irrepressible, and nature seemed to have given him personal vigor, correspondent to the aspirations of his mind. He took the utmost pains with his dress, and encouraged the same particularity in this respect, among his young friends. His toilet was seldom made less than twice in the day ; but he scarcely ever changed his dress to meet the fashions ; having adopted that style, I suppose, which he thought best adapted to show off his person. As he carried his head high, his cravat was adjusted to that position. He constantly wore a white vest, buttoned up to the chin with gilt buttons ; a blue frock and black stock in the morning, *à la militaire*, a style that he seemed to be fond of ; but he appeared generally in the evening nearly in full dress, his garments adjusted almost to constraint, though they subjected him, apparently, to no inconvenience. In short, his exterior was that of a man of leisure and fashion, and seemed to show the training of high and formal company. It was after the English school, with its regulated movement, disciplined patience, and, to my taste, ungraceful constriction.’

Of his genius, whether in diplomacy or in the forum, the estimate has, we believe, been very correctly made by the public. Such as are curious to see to what extent of learning, such power of application, allied with such force of mind, may carry a man in a particular science, will regret, perhaps, that he ever wandered beyond the rugged tracts of his profession ; while others may lament, that so happy a genius should have been expended on a kind of learning wholly technical, and which, being therefore remote from vulgar apprehension, neither allows the uninitiated to estimate the acumen it requires, nor enriches the mind proportionably to the toil of acquisition. We shall not inquire, whether the laborers in the mine of the law, are rewarded for their expense of toil in skill, nor whether we are to assign it a first rank among sciences which humanize the mind. Be this as it may, Mr Pinkney seemed born for his profession ; and he would probably have made the ‘pyramid of his re-

noun' yet broader and higher, had he never been tempted aside from his task by less congenial pursuits. In diplomatic ability, so far as it is constituted by a large acquaintance with public law, a perfect understanding of the questions arising on it, and skill to disentangle their complexities, he did not fall short of any of the great names opposed to him. That he failed in address, is likely enough from the general turn of his character, especially a tincture of personal vanity, which, while it gave to more adroit negotiators an assailable point, would not permit him to suspect that he could be deceived or circumvented. Thence, even a cunning Neapolitan diplomatist might be an overmatch for him. No diplomatic position could be imagined, however, more embarrassing and vexatious, than the precise one he was placed in at St James's. Two colossal belligerents mutually encroaching on the rights of a neutral, whose true place in the political scale was not yet understood, its own government hardly prepared for the last resort, and the nation itself distracted by two fierce parties; these were circumstances in which the most consummate adroitness might have failed to unite all suffrages in its favor. As a statesman his views were sound; but his most successful efforts were, naturally, on points connected with his professional studies.

'But,' as his biographer remarks, 'in tracing the principal outlines of his public character, his professional talents and attainments must necessarily occupy the most prominent place. To extraordinary natural endowments, Mr Pinkney added deep and various knowledge in his profession. A long course of study and practice had familiarized his mind with the science of jurisprudence. His intellectual powers were most conspicuous in the investigations connected with that science. He had felt himself originally attracted to it by invincible inclination; it was his principal pursuit in life; and he never entirely lost sight of it in his occasional deviations into other pursuits and employments. The lures of political ambition and the blandishments of polished society, or perhaps a vague desire of universal accomplishment and general applause, might sometimes tempt him to stray for a season from the path which the original bent of his genius had assigned him. But he always returned with fresh ardor and new delight to his appropriate vocation. He was devoted to the law with a true enthusiasm; and his other studies and pursuits, so far as they had a serious object, were valued chiefly as they might minister to this idol of his affections.

'It was in his profession that he found himself at home; in this

consisted his pride and his pleasure ; for as he said, " the bar is not the place to acquire or preserve a false and fraudulent reputation for talents." And on that theatre he felt conscious of possessing those powers which would command success.'

'This entire devotion to his professional pursuits was continued with unremitting perseverance to the end of his career. If the celebrated Denys Talon could say of the still more celebrated D'Anguesseau, on hearing his first speech at the bar, "*that he would willingly END as that young man COMMENCED,*" every youthful aspirant to forensic fame among us might wish to begin his professional exertions with the same love of labor, and the same ardent desire of distinction which marked the efforts of William Pinkney throughout his life.'

'The editor well remembers in the last, and one of his most able pleadings in the Supreme Court, remonstrating with him upon the necessity of his refraining from such laborious exertions in the actual state of his health, and with what vehemence he replied, *that he did not desire to live a moment after the standing he had acquired at the bar was lost, or even brought into doubt or question.*

'What might not be expected from professional emulation directed by such an ardent spirit and such singleness of purpose even if sustained by far inferior abilities ! But no abilities, however splendid, can command success at the bar without intense labor and persevering application. It was this which secured to Mr Pinkney the most extensive and lucrative practice ever acquired by any American lawyer, and which raised him to such an enviable height of professional eminence. For many years he was the acknowledged leader of the bar in his native State ; and during the last ten years of his life, the principal period of his attendance in the Supreme Court of the nation, he enjoyed the reputation of having been rarely equalled and perhaps never excelled in the power of reasoning upon legal subjects. This was the faculty which most remarkably distinguished him. His mind was acute and subtle, and at the same time comprehensive in its grasp, rapid and clear in its conceptions, and singularly felicitous in the exposition of the truths it was employed in investigating.'

'Of the extent and solidity of his legal attainments, it would be difficult to speak in adequate terms, without the appearance of exaggeration. He was profoundly versed in the ancient learning of the common law ; its technical peculiarities and feudal origin. Its subtle distinctions and artificial logic were familiar to his early studies, and enabled him to expound with admirable force and perspicuity the rules of real property. He was familiar with every branch of commercial law ; and superadded, at a later period of

his life, to his other legal attainments, an extensive acquaintance with the principles of international law, and the practice of the Prize Courts. In his legal studies he preferred the original text writers and reporters, (*è fontibus hauriri*;) to all those abridgments, digests, and elementary treatises, which lend so many convenient helps and facilities to the modern lawyer, but which he considered as adapted to form sciolists, and to encourage indolence and superficial habits of investigation. His favorite law book was the Coke Littleton, which he had read many times. Its principal texts he had treasured up in his memory, and his arguments at the bar abounded with perpetual recurrences to the principles and analogies drawn from this rich mine of common law learning.' pp. 176, 183.

He was, indeed, a wonderful legal logician. As an orator it is a more delicate task to estimate his pretensions. On this point he was eminently ambitious; the more so, perhaps, as he might consider it less certain. In the parliament and courts of Great Britain, the last then adorned by Sir William Scott and Lord Erskine, he found a style of oratory more classical and embellished than was usual at the bar of America; and, if we may trust tradition, his study of that model impaired both the fire and the ease of his natural rhetoric. Mr Wheaton tells us, that he always continued to declaim in private, and that it was his habit to premeditate, not only the general order of his speeches, and the topics of illustration, but the rhetorical embellishments; which last he sometimes wrote out beforehand. We have been informed by one well acquainted with his habits, that he seldom or never wrote any part of his speeches. But the discrepancy may be reconciled by remembering, that the premeditated compositions of so trained a mind would be little the less perfect, in not being committed to paper. But, though his law papers might have been drawn up 'with much care,' and might have 'exhausted the subjects committed to his consideration,' it does not appear that they, or any of his written productions, cost him much effort. On the contrary he composed with great rapidity, writing his letters, diplomatic papers and opinions extremely fast, and with so heavy a hand as to cut constantly through the paper.

It was only after his return from his second mission to England, that we had the opportunity of witnessing ourselves any of his forensic displays. His manner, at that time, was certainly very peculiar; but, to our apprehension, it seemed not so much tinged with foreign imitations, as by his own peculiarities of mind

and taste. It was apparently studied to the minutest action ; and we know that he practised much before the mirror. The defects of his manner may be imputed, therefore, to a vicious taste ; for no man seemed to enjoy more self-possession, and few, a greater facility of reaching what he intended. At the beginning, he spoke in low and indistinct murmurs, as if he were conjuring up the spirit of his elocution by muttered incantations. During this period his action was constrained, and there was a show of timidity, which notwithstanding his usual confidence, was sometimes unaffected. In some of his latest efforts at the bar, where the occasion had drawn public expectation towards him, his lips have been seen to part with their color, his cheeks to turn pale, and his knees to shake. He has often said, that he never addressed an audience without some painful and embarrassing emotions in the beginning. As he advanced, these boyish tremors disappeared ; he became bold, erect, and dictatorial ; his voice swelled from its low notes, which were extremely musical, always parting with its charm as it rose ; though his high notes were rather inarticulate and imperfect than harsh. He spoke with great vehemence, rushing from thought to thought with a sort of ferocity ; his eye fiery, his nostrils distended, and his lips covered with froth, which he would wipe away. His gesture was quite as peculiar. His right arm was not *brandished* in the usual manner, but brought in frequent sweeps along his side ; his right foot advanced, and his body alternately thrown back, as if about to spring, and heaved forward again, as if in act to strike down his adversary ; big drops of sweat all the while coursing along their channels from his forehead. This ‘heat and tempest of his passion,’ he would sustain through periods, that might have mastered the sturdiest frames. The impression, which this violence made on his auditory, was of course, not always advantageous to the orator. It was too much the *habit* of his manner, to gain the credit of being excited by his subject, and threw over his best efforts a frigidity, which was not diminished by the circumstance, that he never seemed so lost in the current of his thought, as to forget altogether the eagerness of display. He never pressed so earnestly to his goal, as not to be turned aside by the golden glitter of an ornament. He became sensible to the vices of his elocution at a later day, and in some of his speeches avoided those of his manner almost entirely. His success in this reform, at an age when most men find their habits too rigid for change, proves how much he could fashion himself to his own taste.

With all these faults of manner, it were rash and unjust to deny, that Mr Pinkney was an orator. Neither the wit, nor the thought, nor the harmony of Pope, has, in the opinion of some critics, enrolled him among poets, because he wanted the invention and the passion of his art. In the same qualified sense we might, perhaps, deny to this great champion of the bar the prize of oratory, which he so earnestly contended for, and to which he brought so many important pretensions, extent of learning, compass of thought, a forcible logic, felicity of illustration, and a correct and polished diction. To some, who remember the vehemence of manner which we have described, and the ambitiousness of his illustration, it may seem a strange heresy to deny him the praise of true fervor and rich invention ; yet, as his warmth appeared to us to be that of the rhetorician, so his figures seemed cold, and rather embroidered on the web of his discourse, than woven into it. Nor do we impute this, we acknowledge, to the affectation of a model, but to an original deficiency of some of the qualities necessary to eloquence, and, among the rest, that undefinable power of enchaining the sympathy of the hearers. His ambition of display sometimes weakened the force of his argument, engaged him in the pursuit of too remote analogies, and retarded his approach to the point, at which he aimed. Even his diction, admirable as it was, cannot be entirely commended ; wearing often the air of too much elaboration, and being sometimes disfigured by affectations ; so that this vehicle of his thought did not always move easily along, from the number and quaintness of its ornaments. His *hits*, if we may be allowed the word, were sometimes felicitous and witty, but they often ended in a cold conceit, and were not always edged with courtesy. Yet no man could hear him for an hour, without owning, that he was a noble genius and an elegant scholar ; and the instances were very rare, in which any person, who had listened to him once, however much he might be dissatisfied with his manner and peculiarities, would not return with renewed delight to witness his successive efforts. To the time of his last public appearance in Washington, the court room was always thronged with the wise, the learned, the fashionable, when it was known that he was to speak ; and he uniformly riveted the attention of his auditors, through the technical details of his longest and driest arguments. The combined causes of this charm we shall not attempt to analyze ; they may all be ultimately traced to the workings of an intellect, powerful in its original gifts, adorn-

ed by culture, and enriched with acquisitions gained by a life of studious toil and active experiment.

We insert the following passages from a pamphlet, published by him under the signature of *Publius*, after the commencement of the late war, and in defence of its policy, as among the best specimens of the style of his written compositions.

“Nothing is more to be esteemed than peace,” (I quote the wisdom of Polybius,) “*when it leaves us in possession of our honor and rights*; but when it is joined with loss of freedom, or with infamy, nothing can be more detestable and fatal.” I speak with just confidence, when I say that no federalist can be found who desires with more sincerity the return of peace than the republican government, by which the war was declared. But it deserves such a peace as the companion and instructor of Scipio has praised; a peace consistent with our rights and honor, and not the deadly tranquillity which may be purchased by disgrace, or taken in barter for the dearest and most essential claims of our trade and sovereignty. I appeal to you boldly; are you prepared to purchase a mere cessation of arms by unqualified submission to the pretensions of England? Are you prepared to sanction them by treaty and to entail them upon your posterity, with the inglorious and timid hope of escaping the wrath of those whom your fathers discomfited and vanquished? Are you prepared for the sake of a present profit, which the circumstances of Europe must render paltry and precarious, to cripple the strong wing of American commerce for years to come, to take from our flag its national effect and character, and to subject our vessels on the high seas, and the brave men who navigate them, to the municipal jurisdiction of Great Britain? I know very well that there are some amongst us (I hope they are but few), who are prepared for all this and more; who pule over every scratch occasioned by the war, as if it were an overwhelming calamity, and are only sorry that it is not worse; who would skulk out of a contest for the best interests of their country to save a shilling or gain a cent; who, having inherited the wealth of their ancestors without their spirit, would receive laws from London with as much facility as woollens from Yorkshire, or hardware from Sheffield. But I write to the great body of the people, who are sound and virtuous, and worthy of the legacy which the heroes of the revolution have bequeathed them. For *them*, I undertake to answer, that the only peace which they can be made to endure, is that which may twine itself round the honor of the people, and with its healthy and abundant foliage give shade and shelter to the prosperity of the empire.’

‘As the war was forced upon us by a long series of unexampled

aggressions, it would be absolute madness to doubt, that peace will receive a cordial welcome, if she returns without ignominy in her train, and with security in her hand. The destinies of America are commercial, and her true policy is peace; but the *substance* of peace had, long before we were roused to a tardy resistance, been denied to us by the ministry of England; and the *shadow*, which had been left to mock our hopes and to delude our imaginations, resembled too much the frowning spectre of war to deceive any body. Every sea had witnessed, and continued to witness, the systematic persecution of our trade and the unrelenting oppression of our people. The ocean had ceased to be the safe highway of the neutral world; and our citizens traversed it with all the fears of a benighted traveller, who trembles along a road beset with banditti, or infested by the beasts of the forest. The government, thus urged and goaded, drew the sword with a visible reluctance; and, true to the pacific policy which kept it so long in the scabbard, it will sheathe it again, when Great Britain shall consult her own interest, by consenting to forbear in future the wrongs of the past.

‘The disposition of the government upon that point has been decidedly pronounced by facts which need no commentary. From the moment when war was declared, peace has been sought by it with a steady and unwearied assiduity, at the same time, that every practicable preparation has been made, and every nerve exerted to prosecute the war with vigor, if the enemy should persist in his injustice. The law respecting seamen, the Russian mission, the instructions sent to our Charge d’Affaires in London, the prompt and explicit disavowal of every unreasonable pretension falsely ascribed to us, and the solemn declarations of the government in the face of the world, that it wishes for nothing more than a fair and honorable accommodation, would be conclusive proofs of this, if any proofs were necessary. But it does not require to be proved, because it is self evident. What interest, in the name of common sense, can the government have (distinctly from that of the whole nation) in a war with Great Britain? It is obvious to the meanest capacity, that such a war must be accompanied by privations, of which no government would hazard the consequences, but upon the suggestions of an heroic patriotism. The President and his supporters have never been ignorant that those who suffer by a war, however unavoidable, are apt rather to murmur against the government than against the enemy, and that while it presses upon us, we sometimes forget the compulsion under which it was commenced, and regret that it was not avoided with a provident foresight of its evils.

‘It will, therefore, be no easy matter to persuade you that this

war was *courted* by an administration who depend upon the people for their power, and are proud of that dependence ; or that it will be carried on with a childish obstinacy, when it can be terminated with honor and with safety. You have, on the contrary, a thousand pledges that the government was averse to war, and will give you peace the instant peace is in its power. You know, moreover, that the enemy will not grant it as a boon, and that it must be wrung from his necessities. It comes to this, then ; whom will you select as your champions to extort it from him ? upon whom will you cast the charge of achieving it against him in the lists ?'

Mr Wheaton's work contains other extracts from his correspondence, and some of his opinions and speeches, which, if they fail to interest the general reader, will give the work a place in the libraries of lawyers and political inquirers.

ART. VI.—*The Diplomacy of the United States ; being an Account of the Foreign Relations of the Country, from the First Treaty with France, in 1778, to the Treaty of Ghent, in 1814, with Great Britain.* 8vo. pp. 379. Boston. Wells & Lilly. 1826.

THE establishment of a new empire in the western hemisphere, by the separation of the North American colonies from Great Britain, has been justly considered as constituting a new era in the political world. The events, whether political or military, which produced that extraordinary revolution, as well as those, which led to the formation of the institutions peculiar to this new republic, together with the influence, which this revolution and these institutions have had on the civilized world, are daily becoming more and more interesting objects of inquiry. No contribution, therefore, to the political or military history of this country can fail of a favorable reception from the American public. The political transactions of the United States, especially those concerning their connexions with foreign nations are much less known than those of a military character. Movements in the field, as well as their causes, are more easily ascertained and oftener become subjects of historical research, than those in the cabinet. In the latter, greater secrecy is often required,

of defiance at the feet of an Emperor, seated on his throne, and surrounded by his guards and courtiers, and that obsequious train of slaves and eunuchs, the inseparable attendants of oriental greatness. I have thought that the result of my researches would gratify the curiosity of those readers who might feel the same desire.'

CAREY & LEA, Philadelphia, will publish, in March, the first number of a new periodical Journal, to be entitled THE AMERICAN QUARTERLY REVIEW.

'Their design is *national*, as far as it can be so extended. For that object, impartiality, as well as breadth of survey and variety of subject, will be invariably studied. In Philadelphia, the aid of many gentlemen of superior ability and scholastic and scientific acquirements, has already been secured; but as it is desired to bring into action talent and knowledge wherever situated, contributions are invited from writers throughout the Union, to whom personal application may not be made; and the publishers pledge themselves to pay liberally for such articles as shall be inserted in the work. The duties of editorship will be confided to a gentleman of high literary reputation.

'With regard to the subjects which are embraced in the design of the American Quarterly Review, its title and the common and known contents of the existing models bespeak them sufficiently. Preference must be given to works and materials, to principles and opinions, especially interesting and useful to our own country, whether they be of domestic or foreign origin. Mere party or local politics, polemical theology, involving injurious and irritating imputations, and whatever tends to disturb essential morals, fundamental Christian faith, or republican theory, will be rigorously excluded. As the work is not meant to be devoted to the views or favorite ends of any member or section of the Union, neither will it be to any exclusive or partial doctrines in any of the admitted subjects. The utmost latitude of opinion and discussion will be allowed, that is compatible with the limits, temper, and general merit to be required in each article. The resources and connexions of the proprietors are such, as to place within their reach copious information of the contemporary literature and public concerns of the principal countries of Europe and America; and they will sedulously avail themselves of all the means of the kind, which they can command, for the enrichment of the Review. They scarcely need to add, that the work will be truly *American* in spirit and drift; patriotism, alert, emphatic, resolute, militant even under certain circumstances, is a trait which should distinguish it and every similar production of this country.'

S. G. GOODRICH, Boston, will shortly publish, ELEMENTS OF MINERALOGY, adapted to the Use of Seminaries and Private Students, 1 Vol. 8vo. By J. L. Comstock, M. D.

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SPECIMENS of AMERICAN POETRY, with CRITICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ERRATA.

Page 42, line 37, for *derive*, read *driven*.
 " 70, " 12 " *Brathand* " *Brathaut*.